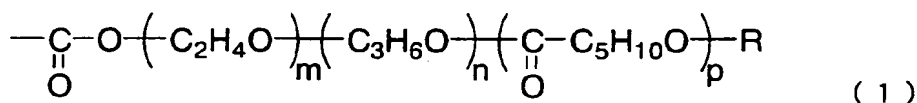


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Aqueous ink comprising, as a dispersant, a graft copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of from 1,000 to 100,000 and comprising: a polymer having a weight average molecular weight of from 300 to 10,000 represented by the following formula (1) as a side chain; and a polymer as a main chain comprising a hydrophobic monomer unit as an essential component, and, if necessary, other copolymerizable monomer unit as a constitutional component:

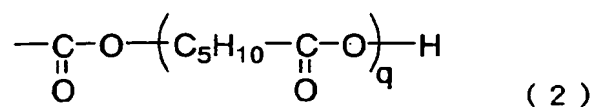


wherein the sum of m and n is 1 or more, p is 0 or 1 or more, and R is a chemical structural unit having an ionic functional group.

2. The aqueous ink as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ionic functional group represented by R in formula (1) is a carboxyl group, a sulfonic acid group, a phosphoric acid group, a primary amino group, a secondary amino group, a tertiary amino group, or a quaternary ammonium salt group.

3. Aqueous ink comprising, as a dispersant, a graft copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of from 1,000 to 100,000 and comprising: a polymer having a weight average molecular weight of from 300 to 10,000 represented by the following formula (1) as a side chain; and a polymer as

a main chain comprising a hydrophobic monomer unit as an essential component, and, if necessary, other copolymerizable monomer unit as a constitutional component,



wherein q is 1 or more.

4. The aqueous ink as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the side chain in the graft copolymer is formed of a macromonomer.